

Whiteman Worldwide

SPECIAL DEPLOYMENT ISSUE



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Photo by Tech. Sgt. Janice Cannon

B-2s take off from a forward location to support Operation Iraqi Freedom missions March 19.

'Shock air forces' hit Iraq

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM
(AFP) — Coalition "shock air forces" aircraft flew nearly 1,000 strike sorties March 21, hitting targets intended to end the regime of Saddam Hussein.

The strikes marked the beginning of the air campaign portion of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

During his first press conference since combat operations began, Gen. Tommy Franks, commander of U.S. Central Command, spoke about the coalition "shock air forces" which flew nearly 2,000 sorties. Coalition airpower operations began a few minutes before 9 p.m. local time March 21.

For the first time in combat, only precision-guided munitions were used in an effort to minimize collateral damage while targeting a large number of military sites, said defense officials. During Desert Storm, less than 10 percent of the munitions used were precision guided.

U.S. Air Force B-1B Lancers, B-2 Spirits, B-52H Stratofortresses, F-117 Nighthawks, F-15E Strike Eagles and F-16 Fighting Falcons, plus Navy F/A-18 Hornets and F-14 Tomcat, Marine AV-8B Harrier and coalition Tornado GR-4, Harrier GR-7 and F/A-18 aircraft flew the strike missions.

Hundreds of Tomahawk land-attack missiles from coalition ships and conventional air-launched cruise missiles were also used in the strikes.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Nick Martin

Senior Airman Loretta Cassatt and Airman 1st Class Jeff Miller, 509th Operations Support Squadron, turn the Toby Mug at Mission's End. The mug is turned face out to symbolize the United States is at war. The tradition of turning the mug began with the movie "Twelve O'clock High" based on World War II. The mug from the movie is part of a display at Mission's End.

Targets included Iraqi regime leadership, regime command and control, regime security, integrated air defense systems and weapons of mass destruction.

The remaining sorties included intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance; close air support; electronic jamming; air refueling; intra- and inter-theater airlift; search and rescue; and interdiction.

Sorties were vital to the success of the strike sorties flying into the heart of Iraq's heavy air defenses, which included anti-aircraft artillery and surface-to-air-missiles, officials said.

Sorties originated from as far away as Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., the Indian Ocean and the United Kingdom, as well as being flown from 30 locations throughout the CENTCOM area of responsibility and five Navy aircraft carriers. The B-2s flew the longest missions, lasting approximately 34 hours round-trip.

Coalition air missions are planned and controlled by the Combined Air Operations Center at an air base in Southwest Asia. The center functions as the brain for the entire coalition air campaign.

CAOC officials plan, monitor and direct everything that goes into the air campaign, from picking the targets and determining what aircraft and munitions will be used to overcoming Iraqi air defenses and coordinating the flying routes of hundreds of aircraft at any given time.

Nearly 1,700 coalition aircraft and thousands of people are required to fly, maintain and support the missions directed by the CAOC.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Angela Smith

Senior Airman Larry Norsworthy, 320th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, puts the final touches on a box he built. Norsworthy is deployed from the 509th CES.

Leaders address Iraqi operation

WASHINGTON (AFP) — This is a joint message from Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James Roche and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper:

"As our nation calls upon its armed forces to meet this next challenge in the war on terrorism, the men and women of the U.S. Air Force will play a pivotal role in striking our enemies, defending our coalition forces and protecting our allies. As you have always done, you will perform your duties with honor, and with the knowledge that our nation's security depends upon the excellence and professionalism of every airman in our Air Force.

"Ours is the greatest joint warfighting force ever assembled, and our nation is blessed to have over 700,000 active, Guard, Reserve and civilian airmen taking the battle to the enemy and securing our homeland.

"You, the brave warriors who voluntarily risk your lives to protect our values and way of life, are the reason we will prevail in this fight. The American people have the utmost confidence and trust in you, they support you, and are proud of your dedication. We couldn't be more proud of your service, and are both honored and humbled to lead this force.

"In this time of conflict and great sacrifice, the admiration, thoughts, and prayers of our entire nation are with you and your families. Do your duty to the best of your ability and we will secure victory, for the sake of our nation and freedom-loving people around the globe."

Commander's Corner

By Col. Doug Raaberg

509th Bomb Wing Commander

A COMBAT CHRONICLE. The 509th Bomb Wing once again goes to war — to support Operation Iraqi Freedom. Today, the B-2 Spirit enters its eighth day of combat operations with an unprecedented record of bombing success over the skies of Baghdad. We've KICKED THE DOOR DOWN and now we're killing high-valued targets.

You can be proud of the significant contribution you have made to this endeavor ... the Spirit is the only bomber flying combat missions to directly strike the nerve centers in downtown Baghdad. If you didn't know ... on the first night of the war we launched six B-2s from Whiteman and our forward location to deliver a devastating "shock" with 92 precision weapons. Since then, we've targeted and hit over 400 precision targets throughout Iraq.

The coalition forces rely on us to do it right; and that's exactly what we're doing. We will continue to write history, but what will be forever etched on every commander's heart is the pride we feel watching our Spirit Team orchestrate the support, preparation, load, launch and strike of every sortie.

The support from our community partners has been equally overwhelming. Yet, our work is not done. I ask that we take an occasional pause between launches to reflect on the sobering reality of our commitment to the ultimate sacrifice to win our nation's war. Then, let's go get 'em! Keep your focus on the mission ... and remember, safety also makes combat sense!

THE CYBER CAFE IS OPEN. This week we celebrated the opening of the Cyber Cafe in the Ozark Inn. I personally stopped into the dining hall the other night, late, and tried them out — high-speed commercial connections with no restrictions. It's open 5:30-12:30 a.m. daily. I encourage all our young airmen to stop by. Take advantage of the opportunity to connect with your deployed friends or chat with your family at home ... or just relax surfing the Web. Your airman's council pushed for this.

A big thanks goes to Chief Master Sgt. Keith Cobb, 509th Bomb Wing command chief master sergeant, 2nd Lt. Jeffrey Shames, 509th Services Squadron, Gregg Kropp, 509th Civil Engineer Squadron, and Tech. Sgt.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Francesca Popp

First-Term Airmen Center students, Col. Doug Raaberg, 509th Bomb Wing commander, Col. Gary Finchum, 509th Mission Support Group commander, and Trish Darrah, 509th Contracting Squadron, cut the ribbon for the Cyber Cafe's grand opening Monday. The cafe offers free Internet access 5:30-12:30 a.m. daily at the Ozark Inn dining facility.

James McCoy, 509th Contracting Squadron, for making this a reality. This \$31,000 project is a testament to some tremendous CE team members — Randy White (design), and Tony Meulmester and Djuan Franklin (architecture). Thank you to 2nd Lt. Kevin Hunt, 509th Communications Squadron, for the communications latch up. Finally, I want to publicly thank Terry Fuller and Charter Cable for donating the Internet service to put the Cyber Cafe in motion. Have fun.

RUSSIANS REVISITED. You may not know this, but the Russians visited us this week. As part of the ongoing Strategic Arms Reduction Talks Treaty, we hosted a team of 10 visiting inspectors for a one-day review of our treaty sights here. A huge thanks goes to our 509th BW Command Post team for working the short-notice notifications. We have the best team in the DOD to deal with these matters and my hat goes off to Marty Bessant and Master Sgt. Frank Jamison, 509th BW Treaty Compliance Office, for a picture-perfect visit. Let me also acknowledge the entire group of augmentees (too many to name) who assured that Whiteman is "the best base that hosts the START team." Take a bow, the Defense Threat Reduction Agency also gave us high marks for our professional approach on this visit.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS ROCKS. Once again the eyes of the nation have been on us. The advent of the 509th's combat operations precipitated a media blitz that the PA team handled with cunning skill. From Fox News Channel live broadcasts to full national coverage, they put the Air Force back in the limelight of war correspondence. A special thanks goes to them for working the long hours and coordinating the key themes that rocketed the airwaves this week. Throughout all this fast-paced operation, they added another PA team member ... congrats to 2nd Lt. Kat Ohlmeyer and her husband, 1st Lt. Steve Ohlmeyer, 509th Security Forces Squadron, on the birth of their son, Austin Ryan ... he was on time, on target!

SPIRIT AWARD WINNERS ABOUND. In the last two weeks, we've had two top-notch airmen who've made the difference for Team Whiteman. First, thank you to Tech. Sgt. Don Goodman, 509th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, for his unfailing support to help one of our Senior NCOs with a PCS move. He truly went above and beyond to help another member's family make a smooth move to their next base. Second, a big salute to Airman 1st Class Jason Peterson, 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron, who played a big part in the transportation and loading of the personal bags for our employees — 600 bags for 200 deploying passengers to be more precise. His spirit attitude was recognized by many of those who shipped out a couple weeks ago. Congrats to both of you for your awesome support to the mission.

OUR FAMILIES NEED YOU. In closing, thank you for the close contact you've made with our families of deployed members. The spouses are exuberant knowing someone cares for them during these expeditionary times. I can't begin to list all the support our families have received, but I do know this ... we really care for our entire family at home and abroad!

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WHITEMAN SPIRIT

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The deadline for article submissions to the Whiteman Spirit is noon Friday. If a holiday falls on Friday, the deadline then becomes 4 p.m. Thursday. Articles will be published on a space-available basis. Submission doesn't guarantee publication.

For more information, call the *Whiteman Spirit* office at 687-6133, fax us at 687-7948, e-mail: whiteman.spirit@whiteman.af.mil or write to us at:

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Operation Iraqi Freedom

The mission

The United States approaches the war against Iraq and postwar operations according to these principles:

- ✓ Liberate, not occupy Iraq — the overarching principle.
- ✓ Disarm Iraq of weapons of mass terror, weapons production capabilities and the means to deliver such weapons.
- ✓ Eliminate Iraq's terrorist infrastructure.
- ✓ Preserve Iraq as a unified state with its territorial integrity intact.
- ✓ Help the Iraqi people begin the process of economic and political reconstruction.

tion.

As for military operations in Iraq, the White House makes these key points:

- ✓ U.S. and coalition forces are in the early stages of military operations to disarm Iraq, free its people and defend the world from grave danger.
- ✓ The enemy has no regard for conventions of war or rules of morality.
- ✓ Allied forces will make every effort to spare innocent civilians from harm.
- ✓ The only way to limit the war's duration is to apply decisive force. (Courtesy of the Air Force)



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Janice Cannon

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM — Members of the 509th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron stand by as one of Whiteman's B-2s returns from A-day of Operation Iraqi Freedom. B-52s from Barksdale Air Force Base, La., also assigned to the 40th Expeditionary Wing, flew sorties on A-day.



Photo by Tech. Janice Cannon

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM — Tech. Sgt. John McKeehan, 509th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron weapons loader, runs last checks on the B-2 before take-off at the unit's forward location. McKeehan is one of more than 200 509th Bomb Wing crew chiefs, specialists, weapon loaders, munitions specialists and structures troops deployed in support of the Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Angela Smith

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM — Senior Airman David Dottavio (left) and Tech. Sgt. Gregory Tesch, 320th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, put a tent frame together as they prepare to extend the Crystal City Dining Facility. ECES members added seven sections to the original layout, which could seat 216 people. With the addition, 75 more people will be able to eat at the dining facility. The airmen are deployed from the 509th Civil Engineer Squadron.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Janice Cannon

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM — Master Sgt. Kelly Costa, 509th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron mission expeditor, runs last checks on the B-2 before take-off in the largest insertion of American bombers since the Vietnam conflict. The U.S. air campaign against Saddam Hussein's military marked the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Photo by Master Sgt. Francis Dupuis

Airman 1st Class Joshua Varga hands Airman 1st Class Justin Fox an oil sample from the B-2 *Spirit of Arizona* after it returned from a combat mission supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom Monday. The 509th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron members perform oil checks on the bombers every 25 flight hours to keep the aircraft at peak performance and mission readiness.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mike Nixon

Dedicated crew chief Tech. Sgt. Steve Verner of the 509th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron makes his way out of the *Spirit of Missouri* after performing a post flight check.

Dragons unite with one goal in mind: Ensure mission success

By Staff Sgt. Francesca Popp
Public Affairs

Members of the 509th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron's gold and red flights recently combined to form the gold aircraft maintenance unit. This happened after more than 25 percent of the squadron's members deployed to support Operation Iraqi Freedom.

While these flights are typically in competition with each other, everyone united to ensure the mission's success — provide combat-ready B-2s.

"It became necessary to combine everyone into one unit to effectively generate combat sorties from here," said Senior Master Sgt. Bill Eyerly, gold AMU sortie generation flight chief. "It's been good for everyone to get a chance to work together. I think (squadron members) can only benefit from this."

However, before the deployed members left here, everyone ensured the required equipment for the deployed location was ready to be sent. One of these people was Airman 1st Class Jason Atkinson. He helped prepare and reorganize multiple equipment pallets. While Atkinson was doing that, Senior Airman Randy Wicher helped ensure the equipment sent was in top condition.

"I believe this deployment is a good experience. It will help ferret out any deficiencies in our operational capabilities here when our manpower is significantly decreased, and in the operational capabilities of the deployed section of our unit," said Atkinson, a 509th AMXS offensive avionics specialist. "It will also point out other items, which should have been included in the pallets for deployment, and any additional items that they may need for the next deployment."



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mike Nixon

Crew chief Senior Airman Lawrence Sink, 509th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, attaches a coupler to an air hose before connecting it to the *Spirit of America*. Sink is responsible for ensuring the bomber stays combat ready.

It may take long hours to accomplish the mission, but many 509th AMXS Dragons said that won't stop them. Atkinson said the 12-hour shifts are bearable because he enjoys his job.

Wicher, a 509th AMXS crew chief journeyman, agrees but said everyone is working harder and relying on each other to ensure mission accomplishment.

With fewer people here, there's naturally a heavier workload, Wicher said.

"Even though I'm only one person, everyone must realize that every job on this base contributes to the mission of the B-2. Every job forms a circle allowing that completion. If just one piece is missing, the circle is incomplete and the mission can't be completed," Wicher said.

Even for those who didn't get to deploy, they have the opportunity to contribute to the war effort. "(We're) every bit as significant as those deployed because we are also flying and fighting from home," Eyerly said.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mike Nixon

Weapons loader Staff Sgt. Mike Copeland waits for a bomb jammer to place a Joint Direct Attack Munition into a bomb bay of a B-2. He is assigned to the 509th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

Whiteman Spirit Award



Airman 1st Class Jason Peterson

509th Logistics Readiness Squadron

Airman 1st Class Jason Peterson, 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron, received the Whiteman Spirit Award from Col. Ned Schoeck, 509th Bomb Wing vice commander, Monday.

Tech. Sgt. David Hodges, 509th LRS, nominated Peterson for the award.

Recently, Peterson operated a vehicle that transported deploying members' bags from the deployment center to the aircraft. The bed of the vehicle was high and bags had to be thrown in manually. Peterson threw more than 600 bags onto the trailer for the deploying members.

However, Peterson's transport of the bags wasn't what impressed Hodges most.

"What really made Jason shine was his customer service attitude toward those deploying," said Hodges.

Some members needed to get back into their bags after they were loaded. Peterson took those people to the trailer and helped them find their bag so they could retrieve needed items. He even met someone who was running late, grabbed the

person's bags, carried them to the trailer and loaded the bags.

"Seeing this type of attitude in today's Air Force makes me proud to serve and proud to work alongside Jason," Hodges said.

Personally Speaking

Duty Title: Vehicle operator and dispatcher

Time on station: 1 year, 11 months

Time in service: 2 years, 2 months

Hometown: Virginia Beach, Va.

Goals: Employment with the FBI or CIA.

Hobbies: Jet skiing and playing pool.

Pet Peeves: Poor hygiene.

Best thing about Whiteman: Being able to work with the most awesome aircraft in the U. S. Air Force.

What motivates your winning spirit?

Moving upward in the Air Force.

If you could change one thing about Whiteman, what would it be?

I would like more things to do around the base and the local area.

Chapel Corner

Catholic

Eucharistic Service — 11:30 a.m. Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays

Confessions — 4:30 p.m. Saturdays and upon request

Mass — 5 p.m. Saturdays; 10:45 a.m. Sundays; and 11:30 a.m. Wednesdays and Fridays

CCD — 9 a.m. Sundays at the base education and training center

Protestant

General worship — 9 a.m. Sundays

Gospel — 12:45 p.m. Sundays

Liturgical — 8 a.m. Sundays

Sunday School — 10:45 a.m. Sundays

The AWANA Kids Club meets 5:45-7:30 p.m. Tuesdays at the community center.

Pentecostal services begin at 6 p.m. Sundays.

Call 687-3652 for more information.

Prayer meeting scheduled

A prayer meeting begins at 7 p.m. Monday at the Charity Christian Center Church at 201 E. McPherson St. in Knob Noster for Operation Iraqi Freedom, Whiteman and world leaders. Whiteman members are invited and may wear military uniforms to the event.

The Whiteman Spirit wants to feature you.

Do you, or does someone you know, have a story idea you'd like to see in the paper?

Let our staff know about it.

For more information, call 687-6133 or e-mail whiteman.spirit@whiteman.af.mil.

This space is reserved for advertisements

Tricare provides healthcare information for families of deployed military members

Base members who have a spouse deployed in support of the global war on terrorism can ensure they have continued healthcare by following these rules:

Moving in the Central region

If your sponsor is deployed and you move within the Tricare Central region, call TriWest at 888-TRIWEST (874-9378). For those enrolled in Tricare Prime, TriWest will help coordinate the transfer of care from one primary care manager to another. Tricare network PCMs are available in most areas throughout the Central region.

Remember, if you visit a provider who is not your PCM for non-emergent care — including routine maternity care, well-baby visits and immunizations — without a referral, you will be responsible for point of service charges.

For example, the member will be charged 50 percent of the Tricare allowable charge for services rendered and a \$300 individual/\$600 family deductible.

Moving from the Central region

If your sponsor is deployed and you move outside the Tricare Central region, it's important to update your address in the Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System within 30 days to help ensure the contractor responsible for administering Tricare in your new region is aware of your arrival. If you're enrolled in Tricare Prime, your benefits are "portable" and will travel

with you with no lapse in coverage. When moving, simply stay enrolled in the Central region until you're settled in your new location.

Then, contact the local Tricare Service Center to enroll in the new region and select a new PCM. The two regional contractors involved will coordinate the enrollment transfer for you.

It's important to visit your Central region PCM for routine services before you move, as POS charges will apply if you seek non-emergent care from any other provider before officially enrolling in Prime and choosing a new PCM in your new region.

Keep in mind that Prime isn't available in all areas, so you may be required to use Tricare Standard coverage if you move to such a location. You may re-enroll in Prime when you relocate to an area where it's offered.

Note: As an active-duty family member, you're not limited to the number of times you can move.

Returning to the Central region

When you return to the Central region, call TriWest at 888-TRIWEST (874-9378) to inform us of your return.

Also, update DEERS to reflect your change of address. If you're enrolled in Prime, follow the directions for moving outside the Central region and TriWest and the other regional contractor involved will coordinate your Prime re-enrollment in the Central region. (Courtesy of TriWest)



Photo by Staff Sgt. Francesca Popp

Staff Sgt. Mark Swartz and Kim Tackett, 509th Medical Support Squadron, review outpatient records.

This space is reserved for advertisements



Courtesy photo

Award winner

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM — Master Sgt. Mark Hamrick earned the 40th Expeditionary Wing and 40th Expeditionary Mission Support Group Senior NCO of the Month Award for March. The award was presented by Col. George Gagnon and Chief Master Sgt. Joe Lavigne, 40th EW. Hamrick is deployed from the 509th Services Squadron.

**This space is
reserved for
advertisements**

Programs support family members

The family support center offers a variety of programs and services to families of deployed members. They include:

- ✓ Joint inter-service family assistance to active duty, Air Force reservists, Army National Guard, Navy reservists, Department of Defense civilians and family members.

- ✓ Crisis intervention assistance.
- ✓ Volunteer opportunities.
- ✓ E-mail access for family use in the FSC computer resource room.

- ✓ Video mail: families can make 30-second videos, which can be saved and attached to e-mail messages sent to the deployed member.

- ✓ Information and referral service to appropriate support agencies on and off base.

- ✓ Families Connected, a family support group, meets as needed at the FSC.

- ✓ Two morale calls are allowed for each family per week to the deployed member. Families can call from their home to the base operator and then be connected to the deployed location via DSN. To enroll in this program, the family must provide the FSC with a copy of the

deployed member's orders and the DSN number of the deployed member. Families that live outside the 687 or 563 exchange area will incur long-distance charges from home to the base, but won't pay for the call from the base to the deployed location.

- ✓ Letter writing kits and Deployed Days calendars for children 3 and older are available upon request.

- ✓ The Hearts Apart Newsletter keeps spouses informed and connected.

- ✓ Assistance seeking employment in the local area.

The Air Force Aid Society offers these programs for active duty and Air Force reservists who are called to active duty and are deployed for 30 days or more:

- ✓ Car Care Because We Care — Families can receive a certificate for a free oil change at the auto skills center.

- ✓ Give Parents a Break — Families can receive a certificate for free childcare provided at the child development center the third Friday evening of each month.

- ✓ AFAS grants and loans for emergency situations. (Courtesy of the family support center)



Family support center receptionist Sarah Vasant helps Airman 1st Class John Kuhle, 509th Maintenance Squadron, fills out paperwork to receive a Care Car Because We Care certificate.



Family support center receptionist Sarah Vasant mails out Hearts Apart newsletters.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Francesca Popp

Family support center staff members Alan Stachowiak and Master Sgt. Jerry Carr test the video teleconferencing system at the FSC. Families and spouses of deployed members can make a VTC appointment by calling 687-7132.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Cherie Thurlby

Senior Airman Tia Schroeder, a deployed 509th Communications Squadron still photographer, was interviewed as part of "MTV Diaries."

Deployed 509er featured on MTV

By Tech. Sgt. Eric Grill

405th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM (AFPN) — A 509th Bomb Wing airman supporting war operations at a forward-deployed location was featured on "MTV Diaries," a reality series that airs weekly on the international music TV channel.

Senior Airman Tia Schroeder, a still photographer with the 405th Expeditionary Communications Squadron, did a phone interview with MTV host Gideon Yago on March 20, the night of the first U.S. attacks on Baghdad.

Schroeder was asked questions about her job, how she felt the war with Iraq has affected her and what she thinks of the war protesters.

This is the second time Schroeder has participated in the show. In December 2001, MTV videographers followed her around Ramstein Air Base, Germany, documenting her life there.

"This opportunity allowed me to say how I actually felt...."

Senior Airman Tia Schroeder
405th Expeditionary Communications Squadron

"

Schroeder said she's not a shy person and that "this opportunity allowed me to say how I actually felt, not only to my co-workers and family, but to the American people, especially the younger people watching MTV.

"Younger people might not be aware of the real facts," she said. "This allows them to see what we are going through as young people too. I'm excited to represent the Air Force. I do that anyway by wearing the uniform, but this represents the Air Force in a very public way."

The episode aired March 21 on MTV.

This space is reserved for advertisements

509ers participate in Operation Iraqi Freedom



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Gaddis

Senior Airman Jennifer Hargett, 509th Munitions Squadron commander's support staff, helps Airman 1st Class Clint Goodman put a hardback on an MK84 body to make a Joint Direct Attack Munition. Everyone in the squadron — from admin to first sergeant to supply troops — is pitching in to help build and put bombs on target for Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Photo by Master Sgt. Francis Dupuis

The B-2 *Spirit of Missouri* returns to Whiteman after dropping its payload on specified targets in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. This bomber has so far flown on the first and fourth nights of the conflict. Pilots are flying 30-plus hour sorties to accomplish missions launched from here.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mike Nixon

Staff Sgt. Boyce Berry places an edge protector on a bomb bay door. Berry is a 509th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron weapons specialist.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mike Nixon

Airman 1st Class Justin Petree connects a grounding cable to a B-2 bomber after its return from a combat mission. Petree is a crew chief in the 509th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. Crew chiefs must be at the aircraft when it takes off and returns to ensure needed maintenance is accomplished.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mike Nixon

Senior Airman Nicolas Cox calls the shots as a Joint Direct Attack Munition is off loaded from the bomb bay of a B-2 Spirit bomber Tuesday. The bomber was reloaded with a different configuration to fly a combat sortie in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Cox is a weapons specialist assigned to the 509th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Gaddis

Munitions support technician Airman 1st Class Derina Bostick, 509th Munitions Squadron, attaches a split clip to a lanyard to assemble a Joint Direct Attack Munition.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mike Nixon

Staff Sgt. Alfred Dodd, 509th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief, briefs Capt. Marty Schulting, a 394th Combat Training Squadron B-2 pilot, on the *Spirit of Alaska's* status before flying a mission March 21. They performed a buddy preflight check for the pilots who flew the sortie. This allows the B-2 crew to show up after the engines are started and aircraft is prepared for take-off.

Keeping in touch

Deployed members, families have options

By 2nd Lt. Eric Paulikonis
509th Communications Squadron

Communicating with a spouse who is deployed is critically important. The most reliable — and sometimes only available means of communication — is sending a letter through the mail for 37 cents.

These options can help improve the link between you and your deployed spouse. Talk with your spouse to determine the most effective and reliable means for communication at the actual deployed or remote location. Keep in mind every location is different.

What are some commercial calling sources?

After contacting AT&T, MCI and Sprint, these are the rates for some specific areas:

| Carrier | Location | Cost |
|---------|--------------|--------|
| AT&T | Diego Garcia | \$1.52 |
| | Kuwait | \$0.52 |
| | Saudi Arabia | \$0.51 |
| | Turkey | \$0.45 |
| MCI | Diego Garcia | \$2.02 |
| | Kuwait | \$0.47 |
| | Saudi Arabia | \$0.49 |
| | Turkey | \$0.45 |
| Sprint | Diego Garcia | \$2.02 |
| | Kuwait | \$0.47 |
| | Saudi Arabia | \$0.49 |
| | Turkey | \$0.45 |

What are some other common communication options available?

| Location | DSN/VTC | Morale | E-mail | IM |
|----------|----------|--------|--------|-----|
| Al Jaber | Yes/No | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| PSAB | Yes/No | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Incirlik | Yes/Soon | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| DG | Yes/No | Yes | Yes | Yes |



Photo by Staff Sgt. Francesca Popp

Master Sgt. Jerry Carr, 509th Mission Support Squadron, does a preliminary configuration on the Eyeball Chat program at the family support center. This program offers another avenue for spouses and families of deployed members to communicate with each other. This service is expected to be fully operational by April 15.

Are DSN calls authorized in and out of Diego Garcia?

Inbound calls are authorized; however, outbound calls over DSN lines are restricted due to a local area agreement with British Telecom. Deployed members sent to Diego Garcia receive \$24 in phone credits every month on a credit card.

The base operators here know that two morale calls are allowed every seven days for deployed and remote members.

Where can I gain access to a computer to use e-mail or

possibly instant messaging?

The base library is open to people who have military ID cards or base passes. Several computers are connected to the Internet for people to access e-mail. The hours are:

- ✓ 11 a.m.-10:30 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays
- ✓ 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Fridays
- ✓ 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturdays
- ✓ 1-5 p.m. Sundays
- ✓ Closed holidays and times vary on Spirit Days.

What are some sources for downloading Internet voice-only programs?

Several different programs can be found at <http://www.download.com> and perform a search by typing "Internet phone." Most of these programs require a software download from the Internet and a microphone with speakers, or a headset-type microphone and speaker combination.

These programs can be accessed on a dial-up modem, but the connection may have some distortion or delays based on connection speeds. The free downloads are:

PC to PC

Speak Freely — <http://www.speakfreely.org> (only works between computers with software on each end)

PhoneFree 7.2.20 — <http://phonefree.com/>

PC to Phone

Dialpad.com — <http://www.dialpad.com> (call any commercial number with software loaded on home PC)

PC to PC or PC to Phone

iConnectHere PC Phone 5.1 (Free trial, \$9.00 to purchase) <http://www.icconnecthere.com>

What is instant messaging and where can I get the program?

Instant messaging is like sending a personal note. A small pop-up window usually appears and you can send text lines to carry on an electronic conversation. Here are some free sites to get you started:

- ✓ AOL Instant Messenger — <http://aim.com/index.adp>
- ✓ MSN Messenger — <http://messenger.msn.com>
- ✓ Yahoo Messenger — <http://messenger.yahoo.com>
- ✓ ICQ Messenger — <http://web.icq.com>

Officials urge against unsolicited troop mail

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — To bolster force protection, the general public is urged not to send unsolicited mail, care packages or donations to forward-deployed servicemembers unless they are a family member, loved one or personal friend, said Department of Defense officials.

On Oct. 30, DOD suspended the "Operation Dear Abby" and "Any Servicemember" mail programs because of force protection concerns. Although these programs provide support to friends and loved ones stationed overseas, they also provide an avenue to introduce hazardous substances or materials into the mail system from unknown sources.

Unsolicited mail, packages and donations from organizations and individuals also compete for limited airlift space used to transport supplies, warfighting materiel, and mail from family and loved ones.

Recently, DOD officials became aware of organizations and individuals who continue to support some form of the "Any Servicemember" program by using the names and addresses of individual servicemembers and unit addresses.

These programs are usually supported

by well-intentioned, thoughtful and patriotic groups who are simply unaware of the new risks facing deployed military forces, said officials. Some individuals and groups publicize the names and addresses of servicemembers, ships or units on Web sites. The result is a potential danger to the troops they wish to support.

DOD officials cannot support creative and well-intentioned efforts that defeat force protection measures, but can instead recommend alternatives to mail and donation programs. To show support to troops overseas, the following are recommended:

- ✓ Log on to the following Web sites to show support, to include greeting cards, virtual "thank you" cards and calling card donations to help troops stay in contact with loved ones:

http://www.defendamerica.mil/support_troops.html

<http://www.usocares.org/home.htm>

<http://www.army.mil/operations/iraq/faqs.html>

- ✓ Visit Department of Veterans Affairs hospitals and nursing homes. Volunteer services to honor veterans who served in past conflicts.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Nick Martin

Athena Mabry buys postage stamps from Richard Nagel, post office manager. To bolster force protection, the Department of Defense urges against unsolicited mail to deployed service members because they provide an avenue to introduce hazardous substances or materials into the mail system from unknown sources. Unsolicited mail also competes for limited airlift space used to transport supplies, warfighting materiel, and mail from family and loved ones.

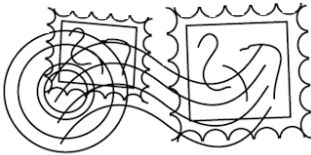
Mail from family members and loved ones has always been encouraged and the military mail system will continue to work

hard to get that mail to service members overseas, said officials.

Letters of support

(Editor's Note: The 509th Bomb Wing has received numerous letters of support for our role in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Here is a small sampling of those letters of gratitude.)

"As a Briton, I just wanted to show my support, in this little way, to the people at your base and all the crews who may become involved in the liberation of Iraq. I, for one, respect you guys, and the work that you're doing in the name of freedom and security. My thoughts will be with you all. Good luck and God bless you all."



Jonathan Gittings
Kidderminster, England

"My family is originally from Sedalia, Mo., and I just wanted to pass along my best wishes and to take a minute to say 'thank you' for protecting us and making us proud. Not everyone in our country is one of those marching in the streets saying, 'No more war.'"

Jeff Keele
Vice President, National Accounts & Marketing
Claymore Securities, Inc.

"Great job. Our prayers are with all of you."

Bakos Family
Kamiah, Idaho

"To the military staff of the 509th Bomb Wing:

"I would like to express in some small way my thanks and respect for the job all of you are doing. While the main media shows the protest of those who do not understand the full implications of this war, I want you to know that you have my respect and support.

"I have a sense of pride and an even stronger sense of humility for the commitment you have made to our country. Your performance of your duty will make it possible for our country to live in the freedom that so many take for granted — even those who choose to protest this war.

"All of you are the best of our country, and together you will represent our values to the enemies of our country.

"I have teenage children that I have a sense of respect and honor for you and the duties you are asked to complete. Because of your performance, they can continue to live and prosper in a free society.

"I pray for your safe return home and a successful completion of your missions.

"God bless all of you."

Greg Stafford
Columbia, Mo.

"I want you to know how much you mean to me and my three children. You are all in my prayers."

Bobbie Gardner
Southwest Missouri

"I have lived in and around Independence, Mo., my whole life and I am very proud of all of you at Whiteman Air Force Base. You have always made me very proud of our United States Air Force and I wish all of you, those here in Missouri and those overseas, the best of luck in the coming days.

"My thoughts and prayers are with all of you and I am behind you 1000 percent! I wish there was some way for me to send a letter to each and every member of your organization to let them know how much the home state folks are behind you and know that you will all prove that the USAF is the No. 1 military organization in the world.

"Thank you for all your hard work and sacrifices and please know that you are all extremely appreciated and make us very proud. I will be cheering for you."

Lyle Van Sciver
Independence, Mo.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Angela Smith

The art of perception

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM — Staff Sgt. Virgil Deaton, 320th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron Structures Flight, uses zip ties to join two pieces of camouflage netting together. Deaton was covering the "Sun Screen" his shop built and set up over the CAT Scan Connex near the 320th Expeditionary Medical Squadron here. Deaton is deployed from the 509th Civil Engineer Squadron.



Courtesy photo

Seeing stars

OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM — Comedian Drew Carey poses with Senior Airman Loren Van Pelt, 40th Expeditionary Services Squadron. Carey, star of ABC's "The Drew Carey Show" and "Whose Line Is It Anyway?," was part of a United Service Organizations and Armed Forces Entertainment group that visited troops stationed at Operation Enduring Freedom forward operation bases. Van Pelt is a member of the 509th Services Squadron. Carey is a former member of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve and was one of the first celebrities to enter the war zone following Sept. 11, 2001, as part of the a USO tour.

MyPay access required for deploying members

Finance now has the ability to issue temporary Personal Identification Numbers for MyPay. Members must go to the finance office and present a valid ID card to be issued a temporary MyPay PIN. The PIN can be customized after three duty days.

MyPay access is required for deploying members and can provide members and their spouses instant access to pay information.

MyPay allows members to view pay statements and make changes up to six days before payday.

A special power of attorney for finance issues can also be brought to finance to receive a PIN. This enables the document holder to view the member's Leave and Earnings Statement without traveling to the finance office. For more details, call finance customer service at 687-5375. (Courtesy of the 509th Comptroller Squadron)



Photo by Airman 1st Class Nick Martin

Airman 1st Class Cyd Charisse Arandia, 509th Comptroller Squadron, helps Senior Airman Dennis Lacoste, 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron, fill out payroll paperwork at the finance office.

Legal services available

The 509th Bomb Wing Legal office provides notary and powers of attorney service 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. weekdays and no appointment is necessary.

Will preparation and other legal assistance is available without an appointment 8-10 a.m. Mondays and Tuesday, and 1-3 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays.

For more details, call 687-6809.

This space is reserved for advertisements



Photo by Airman 1st Class Nick Martin

Loading up on supplies

Virginia Eswine and Carol Welch stock merchandise in the commissary's spouse deployment center. The center helps spouses and family members send care packages to deployed members by offering reduced prices. Whiteman's commissary is one of six bases in the Midwest Region to activate a center. The center is located in the commissary by the soft drinks in the store extension. For more details, call 687-5655.

This space is reserved for advertisements

Know what to do during each force protection level

FPCON Alpha

- ✓ Report suspicious strangers, vehicles and packages to local law enforcement.
- ✓ Keep family members updated on the local terrorist threat and protective measures.
- ✓ Keep doors and storage areas not in use secured.
- ✓ Do not unlock or open doors to people you don't know until their identity is established.

FPCON Bravo

- ✓ Keep vehicles and large containers at least 25 meters away from buildings.
- ✓ Inspect the interior and exterior of buildings for suspicious packages.
- ✓ Examine all mail for letter and parcel bombs.
- ✓ Don't accept any unexpected packages without verification from sender.
- ✓ Lock vehicle doors at all times and inspect vehicles prior to entering.

FPCON Charlie

- ✓ Drive cautiously — new barriers may be erected to control traffic flow.
- ✓ Park only in designated areas.
- ✓ Access points to the installation and facilities will be strictly limited.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Francesca Popp

Airman 1st Class John Renner and Airman Joshua Romanski, 509th Civil Engineer Squadron, guide cement barriers as Airman Basic Ryan Patterson operates the forklift. Cement barriers are used for added force protection measures.

- ✓ Keep a close eye on your children and know their location at all times.
- ✓ Be prepared to have your vehicle inspected upon entering the installation.

FPCON Delta

- ✓ Stay indoors, especially children.

- ✓ Only mission-essential travel.
- ✓ Briefcases, suitcases, packages and vehicles may be searched before entry onto the base or sensitive areas.
- ✓ Make frequent checks of the interior/exterior of buildings and parking lots for suspicious activity.
- ✓ Be prepared for many facilities and roads being closed.

Reporting suspicious activity

Use these guidelines to report suspicious activities. Note: If you have a camera, photograph the person or vehicle, but only if you can do so without placing yourself at risk.

VEHICLE: Record plate number, country, color of plate, color of letters and numbers, make of car, model, year, type, number of occupants and direction of travel.

SUSPECT: Record height, weight, sex, age, skin/hair color, hair length, clothing, language and unusual features.

ACTIVITY: Record date, time and location of what the suspect was doing.

Report suspicious activity to the security forces or Air Force Office of Special Investigations at 687-1852 immediately. For more details about FPCONs, call Tech. Sgt. Stephen Bradford, 509th SFS force protection manager, at 687-3044.

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AF identifies security concerns



Air Force officials emphasize operations security regarding deployed airmen posting sensitive photos of forward operating bases on family or private Web sites.

- ✓ Adversaries could collect these photos and use them to plan attacks against U.S. forces.

- ✓ Personal photos taken by an airman and placed on a personal Web site were downloaded and used on an anti-American site.

- ✓ Information on public Web sites is posted for the world to see; there's no control over who has access to the

information.

- ✓ Commanders can determine a legitimate security concern and prohibit people from posting to the Internet from deployed locations, even if it means ending "morale-call" types of e-mail access.

- ✓ OPSEC goes beyond the Internet because adversaries use multiple sources of information to piece together information.

Force protection and OPSEC are responsibilities that begin and end with each individual. (Courtesy of the Air Force)

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Chaplain (Maj.) Gino Bartmess walks into the chapel for night duties to provide 24-hour support for base members.



Chaplain (1st Lt.) Jay Osterhout speaks with Staff Sgt. Brett Bateman, 393rd Bomb Squadron, about dealing with stress during a deployment.



Chaplain (1st Lt.) Jay Osterhout shakes hands with Senior Airman Maurice Caton, 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron.



Airman 1st Class Latisha Banks, 509th Services Squadron, talks about war issues with Chaplain (1st Lt.) Jay Osterhout at the chaplain's table in the Ozark Inn dining facility.

Chaplains available 24 hours

Story and photos by Airman Joe Lacdan
Public Affairs

To help ease meet the needs of deploying Whiteman members, the base chaplains have now made their services available 24 hours.

"Like everyone else in the Air Force, we are leaning forward to meet the needs of the men and women of the 509th Bomb Wing, their families, the nation and its allies," said Chaplain (Maj.) Gino Bartmess, 509th BW.

The base chapel will also remain open 24 hours in addition to its regular weekend services, Bartmess said. Chapel patrons can use the sanctuary to pray or make an appointment for confidential counseling, encouragement or moral support, Bartmess said.

Chaplains (1st Lts.) Ray Barrett, Jay Osterhout and Dan Forman, and (Maj.) Pat Fletcher and Bartmess work around the clock to ensure military members have someone to talk to either by walk-in or appointment.

Master Sgt. Cory La Grow, 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron acting first sergeant, said the high opera-

tions tempo and the stress levels have increased the need for chaplains.

"Our demands are higher in these times," said Osterhout. "I think we need to be to be more visible and more available."

Osterhout said sometimes military members and families want to speak with chaplains because of confidentiality and because they also serve in the military.

Some of the chaplains have been deployed and understand what military members must endure during an extended deployment. For example, Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Keith Darlington, 509th BW chaplain, is currently deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Bartmess believes the counseling ability of Whiteman's chaplains and the sanctuary of the chapel will help ease war concerns for Whiteman members and their families.

"We are providing a place to get away from the fog of war," said Bartmess. "It's a place to bring yourselves and your children and feel the comfort of God."



Chaplain (Maj.) Gino Bartmess makes an on-post visit with Senior Airmen Janet Oseguera, 509th Services Squadron, and Jacob Atherton, 509th Security Forces Squadron. Oseguera is an augmentee to the 509th SFS.